

Proving EMS Functional Equivalency

Draft Final Guidance

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) are the foundation for Green Tier participation. Participants are expected to utilize an EMS that either meets the requirements of the ISO 14001:2004 standard or has been determined to be functionally equivalent to an ISO 14001 EMS. If an applicant has an ISO 14001 EMS, conformance to this requirement can be demonstrated by providing an ISO 14001 certificate of registration issued by a certification body that has been accredited by an International Accreditation Forum (IAF) member. If an applicant has a functionally equivalent EMS, they shall choose one of the options below.

For Tier 1:

At the time of application to the Green Tier program, if a Tier 1 applicant has an EMS in place that is not an ISO 14001 EMS, it shall document that its EMS is functionally equivalent under either Option A or Option B below. If the applicant does not have an EMS in place at the time of application, it will need to develop an EMS within one year from the date of application to the program, and either submit a certificate of registration under the ISO 14001 standard or document that their EMS is functionally equivalent under either Option A or B below as part of the first annual progress report. It is important to understand that in order to demonstrate functional equivalence, the EMS must have been audited and the audit results must have been reviewed by management and corrective action must have been taken (if needed).

Tier 1 – Option A:

The applicant provides documentation that the components in its EMS satisfy each of the 12 components identified under Wis.Stats. §299.83(1)(dg) (see box). The applicant chooses the means of documentation and has the responsibility for supplying evidence that demonstrates conformance to each requirement. All of the documentation supplied under this option will be a matter of public record and may be put on the DNR web site. The documentation is to be

Wis.Stats. §299.83(1)(dg)

(dg) “Functionally equivalent environmental management system” means an environmental management system that includes all of the following elements and any other elements that the department determines are essential elements of International Organization for Standardization standard 14001:

1. Adoption of an **environmental policy** that includes a commitment to compliance with environmental requirements, pollution prevention, and continual improvement in environmental performance.
2. An analysis of the **environmental aspects and impacts** of an entity’s activities.
3. Plans and procedures to achieve **compliance** with environmental requirements and to maintain that compliance.
4. Identification of all **environmental requirements** applicable to the entity.
5. A process for **setting environmental objectives** and **developing appropriate action plans** to meet the objectives.
6. Establishment of a structure for **operational control** and responsibility for environmental performance.
7. An employee **training program** to develop awareness of and competence to manage environmental issues.
8. A plan for taking actions to prevent environmental problems and for taking **emergency response** and **corrective actions** when environmental problems occur.
9. A **communication plan** for collaboration with employees, the public, and the department on the design of projects and activities to achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance.
10. Procedures for **control of documents** and for keeping records related to environmental performance.
11. Environmental management system **audits**.
12. A plan for **continually improving environmental performance** and provision for senior **management review** of the plan.

accompanied by a declaration from the senior manager that signed the Green Tier application. This declaration shall include the following, *"I have reviewed the information provided. I find that the information provided conforms to each of the 12 requirements in Wis.Stats. §299.83(1)(dg) as a functionally equivalent environmental management system."*

Tier 1 – Option B:

The applicant shall submit to a third party, evidence that their EMS conforms to the 12 components identified in the statute. The third party must demonstrate to the DNR that it (the third party) is both objective and competent*. The third party will then submit to the DNR a declaration, signed by a senior manager from the third party, that they have examined the evidence provided by the applicant and that the EMS conforms to each of the 12 components. This declaration shall include the following: *"I have reviewed the information submitted by the participant, and as an independent third party, I find that the information provided conforms to each of the 12 requirements in Wis.Stats. §299.83(1)(dg) as a functionally equivalent environmental management system."* All of the documentation supplied under this option will be a matter of public record and may be put on the DNR web site.

*** Objective and Competent Third Party for Tier 1** - RABQSA certified auditors have already produced evidence of competence to an objective third party and are considered qualified to make the functional equivalency determination. Others seeking to make the determination shall submit a demonstration of competence to DNR or a Department designee (contractor, review board, volunteers, etc.) prior to the Department accepting a functional equivalence determination. A demonstration of competence shall include documentation of attendance at an accredited ISO 14001 lead auditor training session and documentation of training or experience in the environmental laws that apply to the applicant. Knowledge and skills in the following areas will help demonstrate a third party's competence:

- environmental terminology,
- environmental management principles and their application, and
- environmental management tools (such as environmental aspect/impact evaluation, life cycle assessment, environmental performance evaluation, etc.).

If an objective and competent third party provides the declaration described above, and the DNR determines that the auditor made a false or biased determination, the DNR will not accept any additional declarations from that party.

For Tier 2:

At the time of application to the Green Tier program, if a Tier 2 applicant has an EMS in place that is not an ISO 14001 EMS, they shall document that their EMS is functionally equivalent under either Option A or Option B below.

Tier 2 – Option A:

The applicant provides documentation that the components in its EMS satisfy each of the 12 components identified under Wis.Stats. §299.83(1)(dg) (see box). The applicant is responsible for demonstrating how its system satisfies each of the twelve components of the statute, and for documenting the effectiveness of its system. Baseline information must be provided, along with at least one year of additional results to indicate effectiveness and performance. All of the documentation supplied under this option will be a matter of public record and may be put on the DNR web site. The documentation is to be accompanied by a declaration from the senior manager that signed the Green Tier application. This declaration shall include the following, *"I*

have reviewed the information provided. I find that the information provided conforms to each of the 12 requirements in Wis.Stats. §299.83(1)(dg) as a functionally equivalent environmental management system."

Tier 2 – Option B:

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant shall provide evidence to an outside environmental auditor (§299.83(9)(1)(dr) and §299.83(7m) (see box) that their EMS conforms to the 12 components identified in §299.83(1)(dg) (see above). The outside environmental auditor shall review the evidence submitted and evidence of the effectiveness of the EMS and certify that each of the 12 components are satisfied. This certification should accompany the application, and will become part of the public record and may be included on the DNR's Green Tier web site. This certification shall be signed by a senior manager of the outside environmental auditor and shall include the following: *"I have reviewed the information submitted by the participant, and as an outside environmental auditor, I find that the EMS conforms to each of the 12 requirements in 299.83(1)(dg) as a functionally equivalent environmental management system."*

Wis.Stats. §299.83(9)(1)(dr)

§299.83(9)(1)(dr) "Outside environmental auditor" means an auditor who is functionally or administratively independent of the facility or activity being audited, but who may be employed by the entity that owns the facility being audited or that owns the unit that conducts the activity being audited.

Wis.Stats. §299.83(7m)

§299.83(7m) ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITORS. The department may not approve an outside environmental auditor for the purposes of sub. (3) (d) 4. or (5) (c) 2. unless the outside environmental auditor is certified by the Registrar Accreditation Board or meets criteria concerning education, training, experience, and performance that are equal to the criteria in International Organization for Standardization guidance 19011.

Upon receipt of a certification of functional equivalency for either a Tier 1 or a Tier 2 application,, the DNR project manager shall review the certification and determine whether the environmental management system is a functionally equivalent environmental management system.